

IN RE:)	Chapter 11
)	
IYS VENTURES, LLC,)	Case No. 23-06782
)	
<u>Debtor.</u>)	<u>Hon. David D. Cleary</u>
IYS VENTURES, LLC., as Debtor and)	
Debtor-in-Possession,)	
)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Adv. Case No.
)	
ITRIA VENTURES, LLC; FOX CAPITAL GROUP,)	
INC., BYZFUNDER NY, LLC, and THE)	
HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK)	
)	
Defendants.)	

NOW Comes IYS VENTURES, LLC. as Debtor and Debtor-in-Possession (the “Debtor”), in the pending Chapter 11 case (“Case”), by and through its attorneys, Gregory K. Stern, Monica C. O’Brien, Rachel S. Sandler and Dennis E. Quaid, and in support of its Complaint For Determination of Nature, Extent and Priority of Liens and Interests, states as follows:

1. On May 23, 2023, the Debtor filed a Voluntary Petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the “Chapter 11 Case”) with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division.

2. The Debtor, as Debtor In Possession, has continued in possession of its property, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§1107 and 1108; and, no trustee has been appointed in this case.

3. This Court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 1334, and Rule 7001 Fed. R. Bankr. P. *et seq.*

4. This is a core proceeding pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A), (B), (M), and/or (O), and 11 U.S.C. §105(a), in which this Court is empowered to enter final judgment. Further, this Court has the Constitutional authority to adjudicate the merits of the subject matter of this proceeding. The Debtor consents to this Court's adjudication of this matter by the entry of a dispositive order.

5. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 1409(a).

PARTIES

6. The Debtor is an Illinois limited liability company engaged in the business of owning, leasing and operating gasoline stations selling gasoline, food and beverages to its retail customers at stations located in multiple states, including Mississippi, Virginia, Louisiana, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

4. ITRIA VENTURES, LLC, ("Itria") is a financial services company that offers diverse programs to its customers. Between November 16, 2021, and February 14, 2022, Itria entered into five agreements with the Debtor entitled Future Receivables Sales Agreements whereby Itria extended credit in the aggregate amount of \$1,300,000.00 to the Debtor through the purported purchase of the future receivables of the Debtor's business. Itria took a security interest in the assets of the Debtor and allegedly perfected its security interest by filing with the Secretary of State of Illinois a UCC-1 financing statement.

5. FOX CAPITAL GROUP, INC., (“Fox”) is a financial services company that offers diverse programs to its customers. On August 9, 2022, and November 23, 2022, Fox entered into two agreements with the Debtor and its affiliates whereby Fox extended credit of \$500,000.00 to the Debtor through the purported purchase of the future receivables of the Debtor’s business. Fox took a security interest in the assets of the Debtor and allegedly perfected its security interest by filing with the Secretary of State of Illinois a UCC-1 financing statement.

6. BYZFUNDER NY, LLC, (“Bzyfunder”) is a financial services company that offers diverse programs to its customers. On October 25, 2022, Bzyfunder entered into an agreement with the Debtor and its affiliates whereby Fox extended credit of \$325,000.00 to the Debtor through the purported purchase of the future receivables of the Debtor’s business. In addition, Bzyfunder took a security interest in the assets of the Debtor and allegedly perfected its security interest by filing with the Secretary of State of Illinois a UCC-1 financing statement.

7. THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK (“Huntington”) filed suit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois against the Debtor and its affiliates under case number 23-cv-01368 on March 6, 2023, seeking judgment in the sum of \$1,880,075.01. The District Court granted the motion of Huntington and entered an attachment order on March 16, 2023, against assets of the Debtor including but not limited to bank accounts, motor vehicle, the residence of the guarantor and principal owner of the equity interests of the Debtor, and one of the Debtor’s stations situated in the State of Illinois. On June 22, 2023, the Debtor commenced an Adversary Proceeding 23-ap-0168 against Huntington under §547 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §547 to avoid its attachment against assets of the Debtor as a preferential transfer, which action is pending before this Court.

FACTS

8. Itria, Fox, Byzfunder and Huntington each allegedly assert either (a) interests in assets of the Debtor and/or (b) a security interest in the assets of the Debtor.

9. There is no known method of identifying which receivables may have been purchased by Itria as opposed to being purchased by Fox as opposed to being purchased by Byzfunder.

10. Further, the Debtor contends that the agreements between Itria, Fox and Byzfunder grant security interests to those parties as the agreements constitute disguised security agreements.

11. Itria, Fox and Byzfunder also assert a perfected security interests in the assets of the Debtor and the cash proceeds of those assets.

12. Huntington claims an interest pursuant to its Attachment Order in and to the cash balances contained in the Debtor's bank accounts which received deposits of proceeds of the sales of the Debtor.

13. The respective rights of Itria, Fox, Byzfunder and Huntington in the various assets and the proceeds thereof of the Debtor are uncertain and contradictory *inter se*, resulting in the uncertainty of the respective rights of Itria, Fox, Byzfunder and Huntington as to the nature, extent and priority of those adverse rights.

14. The uncertainty of the nature, extent and priority of the rights of these creditors render it impossible to determine the appropriate treatment of those rights for the purposes of providing adequate protection, lien priority and payment under a plan.

15. Doubt exists as to the continued existence on the Petition Date of the accounts receivable which Itria, Fox and Byzfunder assert to hold an interest against. Further, the

accounts receivable generated after the Petition Date by the Debtor-in-Possession are not subject pursuant to §552 of the Bankruptcy Code to the rights of these creditors.

WHEREFORE, the Debtor, prays that this Court enter an order as follows:

- A. Determining and declaring the validity, nature, extent and priority of the rights of Itria, Fox, Byzfunder and Huntington *inter se* in and to the assets of the Debtor in this case;
- B. Determining and declaring the extent to which the claims of Itria, Fox, Byzfunder and Huntington hold secured claims and to the extent that those claims are unsecured claims; and,
- C. For such other further relief as this Court deems just.

/s/ Gregory K. Stern

Gregory K. Stern, Attorney

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